

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. Claims 18-21 have been withdrawn, leaving claims 1-17, 22, and 23 remaining. Claims 1 and 23 were amended in the most recent Response and Amendment, filed November 10, 2003.

**1. Sequence Rules Compliance**

The Office Action dated May 8, 2003 objected to the Specification for non-compliance with the sequence listing requirements for nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences set forth in 37 CFR §§1.821(a)(1) and (a)(2) as lacking a submission of a computer readable form sequence listing, a paper copy for the specification, a statement under 37 CFR §§1.821(f) and (g), and SEQ ID Nos cited along with each sequence in the specification. Applicants amended the Specification to correct those matters stated as the grounds for objection and assert under 37 CFR §§1.821(f) and (g) that the information recorded in computer readable form on the disk submitted with this Response is identical to the written sequence listing. In the Office Action dated January 29, 2004, the Examiner states that Applicants failed to state that the Sequence Listing submission contained no new matter.

Applicants respectfully call to the Examiner's attention that the November 10, 2003 Response and Amendment states at page 22 that

"The amendments do not introduce new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132." To the extent that this statement was not clearly applicable to the sequence listing paper copy and CRF, Applicants specifically confirm that the submission of the sequence listing paper copy and CRF made on November 10, 2003 includes no new matter.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the objection to the Specification for non-compliance with the sequence listing requirements.

**CONCLUSION**

Based upon the above remarks, the presently claimed subject matter is believed to have utility, be enabled, be novel, and be patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections of remaining claims 1-17, 22, and 23, and allow all pending claims presented herein for reconsideration. Favorable action with an early allowance of the claims pending in this application is earnestly solicited.

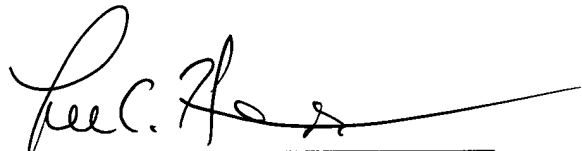
The Examiner is welcomed to telephone the undersigned attorney if she/he has any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

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